



PROPOSED RULE MAKING

CR-102 (June 2004)

(Implements RCW 34.05.320)

Do NOT use for expedited rule making

Agency: Department of Health – Board of Physical Therapy

- ☒ Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR 04-07-174 ; or
☐ Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR _____; or
☐ Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4).

- ☒ Original Notice
☐ Supplemental Notice to WSR _____
☐ Continuance of WSR _____

Title of rule and other identifying information: (Describe Subject) **WAC 246-915-105 – Approved physical therapist programs**
Physical therapist assistants are not regulated in Washington but it is estimated that there are 500 physical therapist assistants providing services to Washington citizens. In view of the fact that a physical therapist assistant may treat up to four patients per hour, it is plausible that as many as 16,000 patients per day receive physical therapy services from a physical therapist assistant in Washington. The costs associated with inadequate, negligent or incompetent physical therapy care by a poorly trained physical therapist assistant carry the potential for unnecessary treatments, prolonged treatments, extended recuperation periods, serious or life-threatening health risks, unnecessary physical discomfort, and added financial burdens to patients, insurance companies and state and federal health care funds. The proposed rule establishes minimum education standards that have been proven to be consistent with the functions and services that fall within the physical therapy scope of practice in this state.

Hearing location(s): Department of Health
310 Israel Rd SE
Room 152
Tumwater, WA 98501

Submit written comments to:

Name: Kris Waidely, Program Manager
Address: 310 Israel Rd SE
Tumwater, WA 98501
e-mail kris.waidely@doh.wa.gov
fax (360)664-9077 by (date) November 5, 2004

Date: November 16, 2004 Time: 9:30 a.m.

Assistance for persons with disabilities: Contact

Kris Waidely, Program Manager by November 5, 2004

TTY (800) 833-6388 or (360) 236-4847

Date of intended adoption: November 16, 2004
(Note: This is NOT the effective date)

Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:

RCW 18.74.023(7) authorizes the Board of Physical Therapy to define and specify the education and training requirements of physical therapist assistants and physical therapy aides. Physical therapist assistants are technically educated at the two-year associate degree level. While the supervising physical therapist is trained to provide the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment plan, physical therapist assistants are considered paraprofessionals who work under the direction and supervision of the physical therapist and are trained to provide physical therapy interventions. Given that physical therapist assistants are not required to work under direct supervision and frequently work in unsupervised settings such as home health and public schools, this rule is necessary to establish that assistants meet minimum educational qualifications in order to protect the public from harm.

Reasons supporting proposal: By statute, the Board is authorized to define and specify the education and training of physical therapist assistants. Since the Board is not authorized to regulate physical therapist assistants, the only alternative is to establish minimum educational standards and require the regulated physical therapist to only utilize individuals who meet this educational standard.

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.74.023**Statute being implemented:** RCW 18.74.023**Is rule necessary because of a:**

- Federal Law? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Federal Court Decision? ☐ Yes ☒ No
State Court Decision? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, CITATION:

DATE

August 30, 2004

NAME (type or print)

Kris Waidely

SIGNATURE*Kris Waidely***TITLE**

Program Manager

CODE REVISER USE ONLYCODE REVISER'S OFFICE
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

OCT 4 2004

TIME

1245

WSR

04-20-070

AM
PM

(COMPLETE REVERSE SIDE)

Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:

None.

Name of proponent: (person or organization) Department of Health

- ☐ Private
☐ Public
☒ Governmental

Name of agency personnel responsible for:

Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting..... Kris Waidely, Program Manager	310 Israel Rd SE, Tumwater, WA 98501	(360) 236-4847
Implementation....Kris Waidely, Program Manager	310 Israel Rd SE, Tumwater, WA 98501	(360) 236-4847
Enforcement..... Kris Waidely, Program Manager	310 Israel Rd SE, Tumwater, WA 98501	(360) 236-4847

Has a small business economic impact statement been prepared under chapter 19.85 RCW?

☐ Yes. Attach copy of small business economic impact statement.

A copy of the statement may be obtained by contacting:

Name: Kris Waidely
Address: PO Box 47868
Olympia, WA 98504-7868

phone (360) 236-4847
fax (360)664-9077
e-mail kris.waidely@doh.wa.gov

☒ No. Explain why no statement was prepared.

An SBEIS is not required because the cost to implement the proposed rules does not exceed the threshold. The more than minimum cost threshold from "804 Office of Clinics and Other Healthcare Practitioners" is set at \$110.00.

Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?

☒ Yes A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name: Kris Waidely
Address: PO Box 47868
Olympia, WA 98504-7868

phone (360) 236-4847
fax (360)664-9077
e-mail kris.waidely@doh.wa.gov

☐ No: Please explain:

NEW SECTION

WAC 246-915-105 **Approved physical therapist assistant schools.** A board approved physical therapist assistant program shall mean a United States physical therapist assistant education program accredited by the American Physical Therapy Association's Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education or a United States military physical therapy technician program that is substantially equivalent to an accredited United States physical therapist assistant program.